

Oxitec Press Inquiry from UC Berkeley

Deadline: COB 11/1/2021

Mosquito borne disease is not really an issue in California. Why is this trial expanding to this state after Florida?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

What independent review is the EPA conducting or planning to conduct regarding the Oxitec trials prior to its launch in California? If no independent review is planned, why?

EPA is currently reviewing Oxitec's EUP amendment, including the proposed expansion to California, and public comments received. During this process, EPA will revise and update its risk assessment to evaluate the proposed use in California. The EUP cannot be extended or expanded until the amendment is approved.

EPA's decision to grant Oxitec's initial EUP was made after [HYPERLINK "https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0359"], [HYPERLINK "https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0354"] and [HYPERLINK "https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0351"] (CDC). To view the supporting materials, visit docket [HYPERLINK "https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274/document"] at regulations.gov.

What will data collection look like over the course of the trials in California? Specifically, how will the EPA ensure that there are no female OX5034 mosquitoes surviving and breeding with the wild population?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Will the EPA be checking wastewater treatment plants and other sewage systems in the release zones to ensure there is no tetracycline present in them? If not, why?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

What information will the public be given before the trials go live?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

How will the release of these mosquitoes affect the use of other pest management systems?

If registered as a commercial use product, the use of species-specific modified mosquitoes may reduce the use of conventional pesticides used for mosquito control while simultaneously reducing populations of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that spread disease. Additionally, OX5034 mosquitoes may complement existing mosquito control systems by reaching mosquitoes in areas that are difficult to treat with conventional mosquito larvicides and adulticides.